

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 IO-13 NIC-01 RSR-01 /105 W

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P R 202346Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 950

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMING

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 7215

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAS VE CU

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN DEMARCHE ON CUBA

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1. I SPOKE THIS AFTERNOON WITH FONMIN CALVANI ON PROSPECTS OF ACCEPTANCE OF VENEZUELAN AIDE MEMOIRE ON CUBA. AS HAD HIS SUBALTERN PEREZ CHIRIBOGA LAST WEEK, HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT VENEZUELA HAS NOT YET RPT NOT YET THE NECESSARY TWELVE VOTES FOR ITS MOTION. CALVANI SAID HE KNEW THAT FACIO WAS PREPARING A COUNTER PROPOSAL WHICH HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED.

2. I ASKED CALVANI HOW THE CUBAN PROBLEM COULD BE RECONCILED AND IN PARTICULAR HOW THE JURIDICAL SITUATION COULD FIND ITS SOLUTION.

3. THE MINISTER REPLIED THAT THERE WERE TWO WAYS OF INTERPRETING INTERNATIONAL LAW--ONE STRICT AND ONE LIBERAL. ON A PURELY LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF THE RIO TREATY AND THE VOTING PROCEDURES OF THE OAS IT WAS CLEAR THAT A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY WOULD BE REQUIRED. HOWEVER, CONDITIONS HAD CHANGED SINCE 1964 AND THE OAS NOW FOUND ITSELF IN A SITUATION WHERE IT COULD NOT MOVE IN EITHER DIRECTION IF A TWO-THIRDS VOTE WERE REQUIRED, EITHER TO LIFT SANCTIONS OR TO REIMPOSE THEM. IN CONSEQUENCE, CALVANI WAS SEEKING A FORMULA WHICH ALTHOUGH IT ADMITTEDLY WOULD NOT JIBE WITH A CLOSE INTERPRETATION OF THE RIO TREATY WOULD AT LEAST PERMIT GOVERNMENTS TO FACE UP TO A NEW SITUATION IN WHICH CUBA NO LONGER POSED THE THREAT IT HAD AND UNDER WHICH CUBA TO EVERYONE'S INTEREST COULD BE EASED BACK INTO THE HEMISPHERIC FAMILY.

4. I TOLD THE MINISTER THAT IN ADDITION TO OUR DOUBTS AS TO THE SOUNDNESS OF THE VENEZUELAN JURIDICAL POSITION, WE HAD A VERY IMPORTANT POLITICAL PROBLEM IN OUR OWN COUNTRY. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FELT DEEPLY ABOUT THE USURPATION OF POWER BY A COMMUNIST REGIME IN CUBA AND WOULD NOT LOOK LIGHTLY ON STEPS TAKEN TO REFURBISH CASTRO. TO THIS CALVANI GAVE ME THE REPLY I HAD ANTICIPATED; NAMELY, THAT IF THE UNITED STATES COULD NOW BECOME FRIENDS WITH MAO TSE TUNG AND IS APPARENTLY ON THE VERGE OF RECOGNIZING EAST GERMANY, WHY COULD IT NOT TAKE A RELAXED VIEW ON CUBA?

5. MY IMPRESSION FROM THIS CONVERSATION IS THAT FOR REASONS
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WHICH I DO NOT ENTIRELY COMPREHEND THE CRITICAL VOTE WILL BE THAT OF COSTA RICA AND THAT CALVANI, TO USE HIS OWN WORDS, FRANKLY DOES NOT KNOW HOW THE BODY COUNT WILL TURN OUT.

6. RE PRESS SPECULATION THAT PRESIDENT CALDERA WOULD VISIT THE UNGA (WITH THE IMPLICATION THAT HE WOULD STOP OFF IN HAVANA EN ROUTE), CALVANI SAID IT HAD BY NO MEANS BEEN DECIDED THAT CALDERA WOULD GO TO NEW YORK. HOWEVER,

HE DID HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO MAKE A STATE VISIT TO SANTO DOMINGO TO DEDICATE A STATUE OF BOLIVAR, AND A SIMILAR OBLIGATION TO PRIME MINISTER MANLEY OF JAMAICA TO VISIT KINGSTON. IT WAS CLEAR THAT CALDERA WOULD VISIT THESE TWO ISLAND CAPITALS PROBABLY NEXT MONTH, BUT BY NO MEANS EVIDENT THAT HE WOULD GO TO NEW YORK.

7. NEVERTHELESS, CALVANI SPOKE OF THE IMMINENT RECOGNITION OF CASTRO IN MATTER OF FACT TERMS. IN HIS USUAL LAW PROFESSOR MANNER HE TICKED OFF THE REQUISITES: (A) AGREEMENT BY CUBA TO SIGN A TREATY OF MUTUAL NONAGGRESSION; (B) THE CONTINUATION OF PRACTICAL AND OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN INAUGURATED; AND (C) THE ESTABLISHMENT BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS (BUT ESPECIALLY CUBA) OF CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF EMBASSIES BOTH IN CARACAS AND IN HAVANA. IN OTHER WORDS, THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR HERE PRIOR TO HIS ACCEPTANCE WOULD HAVE GIVEN A PLEDGE NOT TO ENTER INTO DIRTY TRICKS ANYMORE WITH VENEZUELA.

8. IN CONCLUSION, CALVANI SAID THAT HE WOULD MUCH PREFER TO GET HIS TWELVE STATE MOTION APPROVED BEFORE RECOGNITION OF CUBA. IT WAS EQUALLY CLEAR TO ME THAT THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT HAD REACHED THE DECISION TO RECOGNIZE CUBA, PROBABLY BEFORE CALDERA'S STATE VISIT TO SANTO DOMINGO AND KINGSTON.
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